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**INTELLIGENCE**

## Was Colorado Man Behind Laos Forays?

WHO LED WASHINGTON'S SECRET search for missing Americans in southern Laos last May?

Pentagon officials have suggested that local CIA-trained guerrillas carried out the forays, but last week French intelligence sources claimed the effort was led by Stanley Blunt, a much-decorated Vietnam veteran from Cañon City, Colorado.

The missions, mounted after aerial photographs showed what looked like a prison compound near the

old Ho Chi Minh trail, returned empty-handed.

"He was there on two specific missions this year," said Blunt's mother, Virginia, who stressed that she had no knowledge of what exactly these expeditions involved. "He seemed disappointed when he got back. I had a call while he was away from someone who didn't give a name, saying Stanley could be reached through the American Embassy in Bangkok."

Blunt, in a Bangkok hotel

last week, said that his "numerous" attempts to track down the 2,459 American military personnel unaccounted for in Southeast Asia were "really not official."

Describing himself as a retired Special Forces captain, he added that he couldn't recall whether he had taken part in any missions in May. Has he gone into Laos? "I won't say that," he said. "Hell, I'm an ex-serviceman, and I care about my people."